

STUDIO LUCCI

The Charcoal House
Blacksmith Lane
Chilworth
Guildford, Surrey GU4 8NQ

LANDSCAPE SITE ANALYSIS AND DESIGN APPROACH

The proposals are informed by a careful reading of the site and its wider landscape context. The site sits within a gently undulating rural setting, defined by mature broadleaf woodland, hedgerows, watercourses and open meadow, establishing a clear landscape structure.

A transition from enclosed woodland to the north and east, to expansive views across the meadow to the west defines the site and informs the layout. Key landscape features are retained and reinforced, with development shaped to maintain long views and integrate seamlessly within its rural setting.

1 – Access

Access is via a farm track from the east, passing through dense broadleaf woodland (Pasons Field) with an associated stream corridor.

2 – Existing Woodland

The woodland forms part of a wider green infrastructure network and is retained, reinforced and drawn into the site along the eastern edge. It continues westwards along the northern boundary and eastwards towards Gerrards Rough, designated Ancient Woodland (located beyond the site).

3 – Stream Corridor

A stream runs westwards along the northern woodland edge and is retained as a key landscape feature.

4 – Ditch Network

Existing hedgerows contain a ditch network (indicated in blue), likely connecting back into the stream.

5 – Meadow and Views

The site opens to long views towards the west and south west (shown by pink dashed arrows). These views are maintained, with visual interruption minimised. The meadow landscape is visually extended into the development, with enclosure limited.

6 – Immediate Garden Setting

The garden is to respond directly to the open views, adopting a curved, informal edge with no visible fencing to maintain a sense of openness.

7 – Eastern Edge and Servicing

Servicing, temporary parking and deliveries are located to the east, screened by woodland planting and landform to protect key western views.

8 – Courtyard Setting

The building forms a courtyard, enclosing activity and limiting visibility of vehicles from the approach. Everyday parking is accommodated within the undercroft.



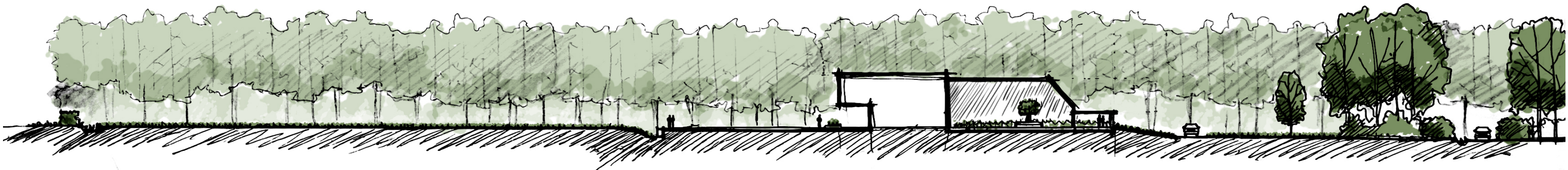
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY MASTERPLAN

The masterplan evolves directly from the site analysis and design approach, translating the existing landscape structure into a clear spatial framework.

The transition from enclosed woodland to open meadow is carried through the layout, with the building positioned to form a courtyard that defines arrival while enclosing servicing and parking. The eastern edge is reinforced with woodland planting, strengthening the sense of containment on approach.

In contrast, the landscape opens to the west, where the garden extends into the meadow setting. A ha ha defines the edge, maintaining uninterrupted views while providing subtle containment and managing level change. The immediate setting adopts a simple, informal character, allowing the wider landscape to remain dominant.

Overall, the masterplan is shaped by the site's inherent qualities, balancing openness and enclosure to create a scheme that sits comfortably within its rural context.



A

LONG SECTION

AA

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY MASTERPLAN - DETAILED GARDEN PLAN

KEY

1. Courtyard

Arts and Crafts inspired courtyard centred around a feature ‘Character’ specimen tree eg Olive, softened through informal plantign to edges. refer to perspective image for design intent. hard materials to be developed, natural stone cobble suggested.

2. Formal Lawns

Managed formal lawns with a gentle curved geometry, with outer edges defined by hedging reflecting existing site precedent. Adjacent to the building, the lawn is set behind a 1.2m footpath and framed by 2.5–3m deep planting, strengthening the setting and softening the transition between building and landscape.

3. Semi-Covered outdoor terrace

Feature Arts and Crafts paving with exceptional detailing.

4. Kitchen terrace

Dining space, positioned close to the kitchen. Designed to accommodate a long table and seating, approx. 7m in length x 4.8m in width.

5. Sunken Garden

Terraced sunken garden with a more informal and natural character. Feature paving, setts, ferns, moss and boulders creating a woodland inspired environment.

6. Feature Benches

Carefully positioned benches to frame and capture views out towards the surrounding landscape.

7. Buffer and Meadow Woodland

Woodland edge and meadow planting drawn into the site to soften visual impact, provide screening and enhance biodiversity value. New trees to be native, broadleaf mix.

8. Ramped Landscape Approach

Access road to have a gravelled, rustic character, with potential for permeable resin bound finish where required. path leads to under-croft parking.

9. Feature Cattle Grid

Cattle grid marking the transition into the site. New hedge planting to follow the road alignment, reflecting existing curved hedge forms on site.

10. Ha ha

Ha ha wall approximately 1.5m high in stone or brick to match the building. Integrated ditch to assist with surface water management and drainage.

11. Meadows

Ecological meadow areas comprising improved grassland and wildflower mixes to enhance biodiversity and seasonal interest.

12. Kitchen Garden Room

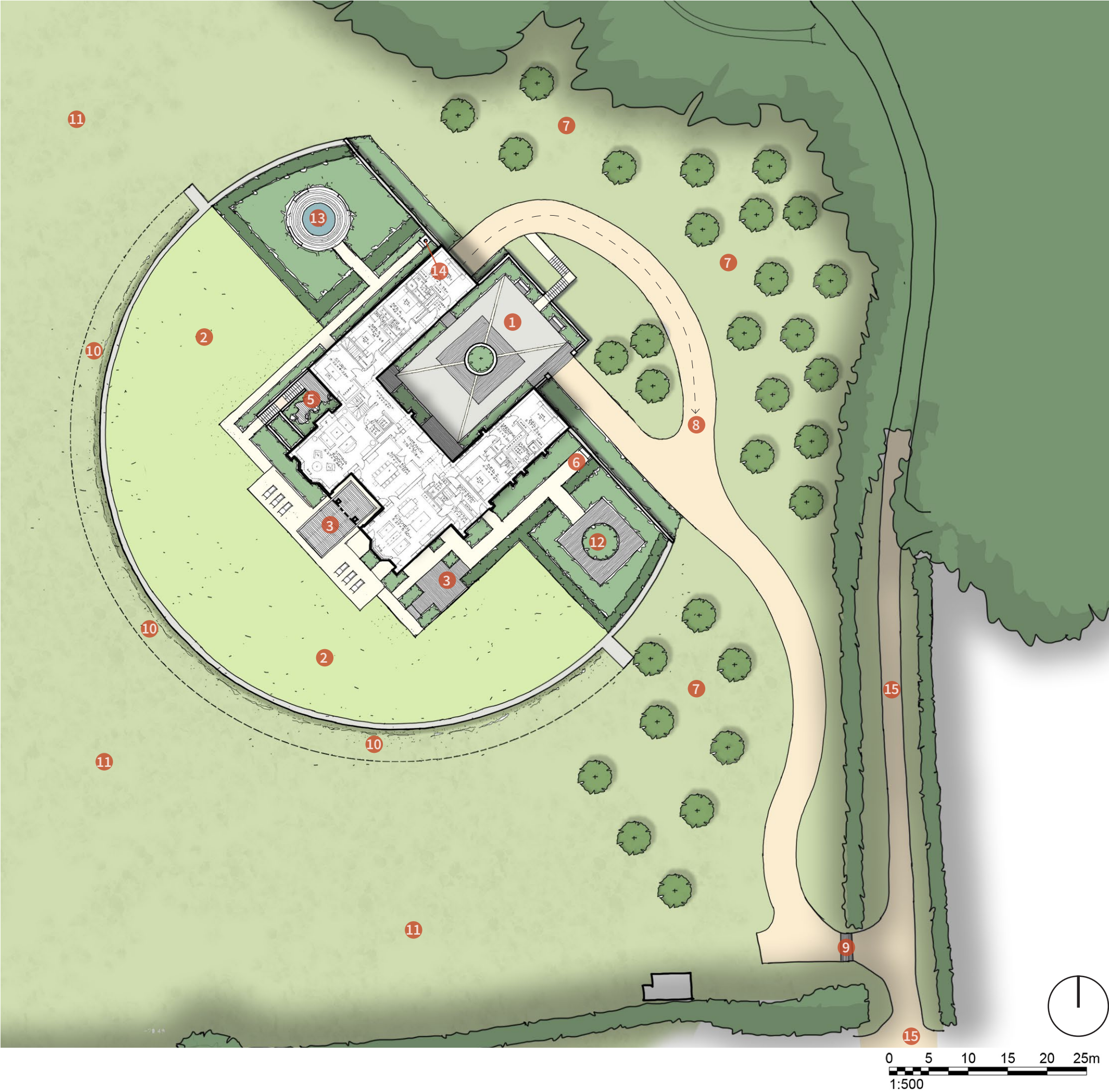
Enclosed hedged garden surrounded by low timber raised beds for vegetable growing.

13. Reflection Garden Room

A circular reflecting pond is set within layered planting, creating movement, texture, and a calm focal point. Integrated seating and stone setts provide space for rest and contemplation, with the garden positioned to capture the evening sun.

14. Feature sculpture/bench

15. Existing compacted gravel road



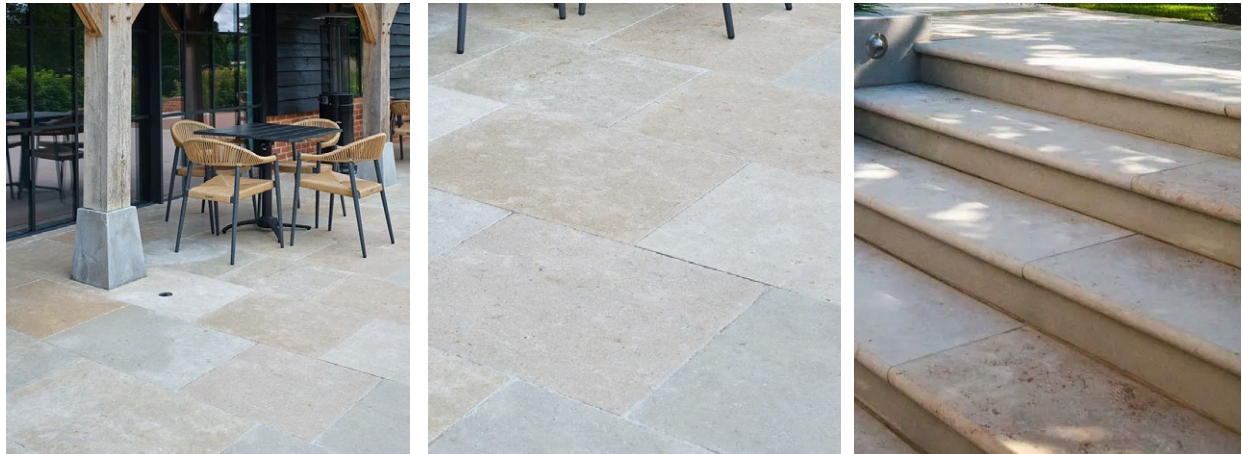
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY - SURFACE FINISHES



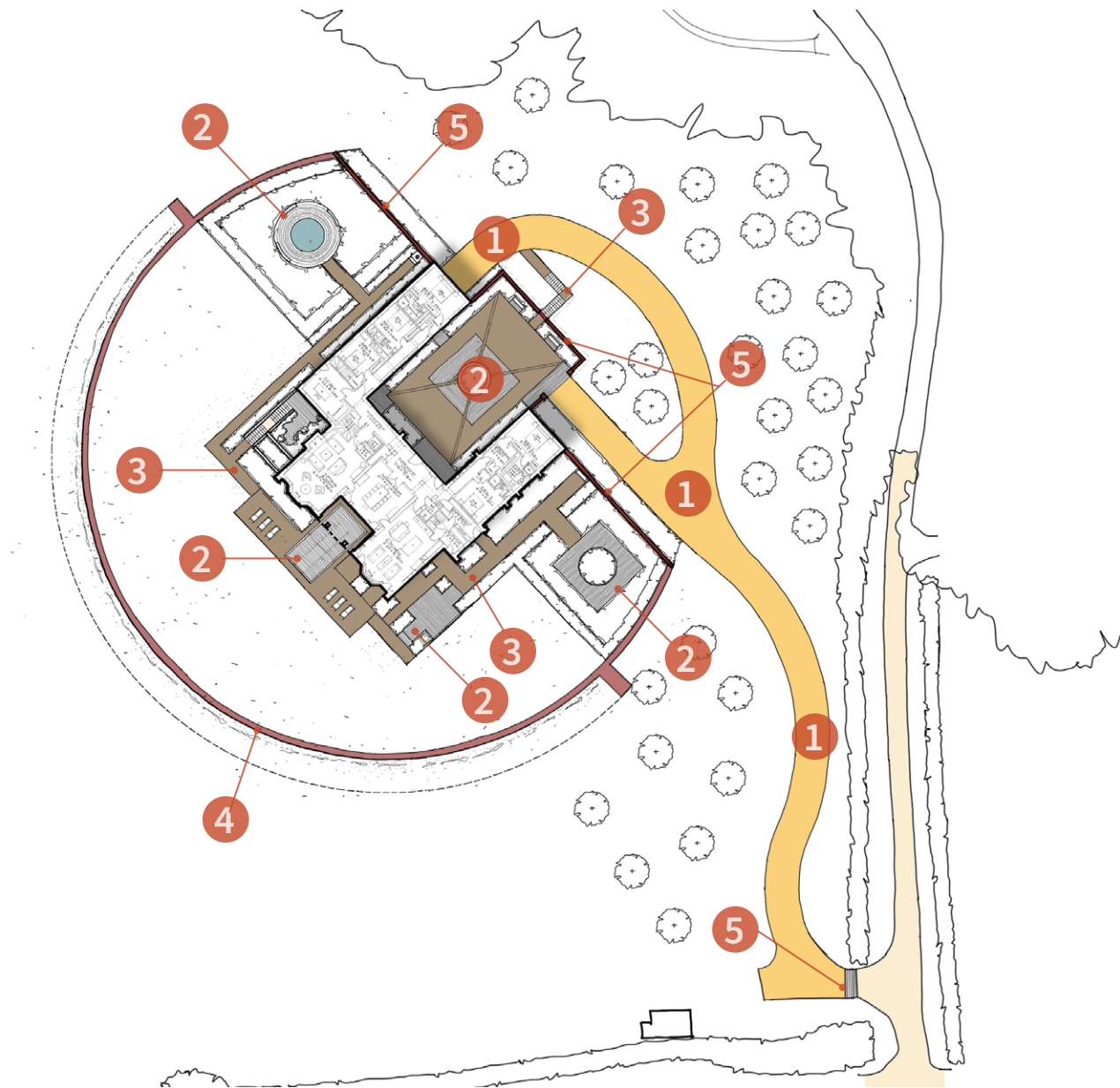
1. Stabilised gravel / resin bound surface
Natural buff coloured aggregates to be used. Surface to be set within a metal edge to allow for soft curved profiles. Overall character to remain informal and unadopted.



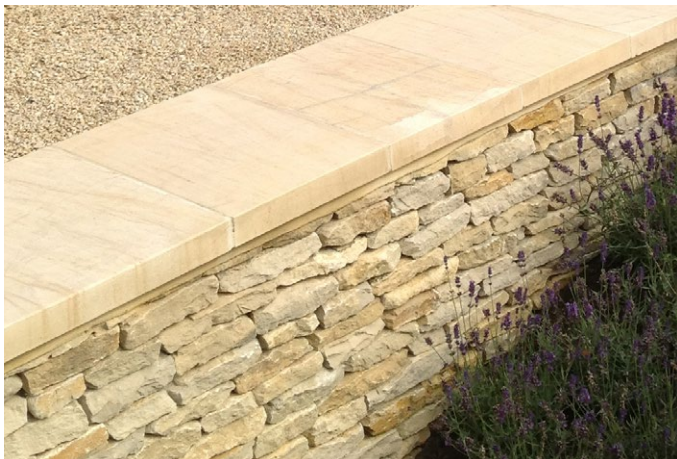
2. Small unit paving (stone setts / clay paviours)
Arts and Crafts inspired detailing to be adopted. Pattern and laying bond to reinforce threshold spaces. Integrated surface water channel to be incorporated within the design.



3. Natural stone paving
Natural stone paving to complement the building architecture. Light buff tones to be used. Steps to be formed in matching natural stone.



4. Ha-ha wall
Brick and flint to match the building, or alternatively a rubble stone wall. Wall to be finished with a natural stone coping in a buff tone, cut to follow curved geometry.



5. Free standing wall
Continuation of building flank walls circa 2.1m above Ground level to main entrance

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY - SOFTWORKS STRATEGY

1. Structural ‘Classic’ Hedges

Structural hedges, approximately 1.5–1.8 m high, are proposed to define and enclose key garden rooms. Yew (*Taxus baccata*) is selected for its native status, evergreen character, and ability to form a dense, well-clipped hedge, providing strong year-round structure and privacy.



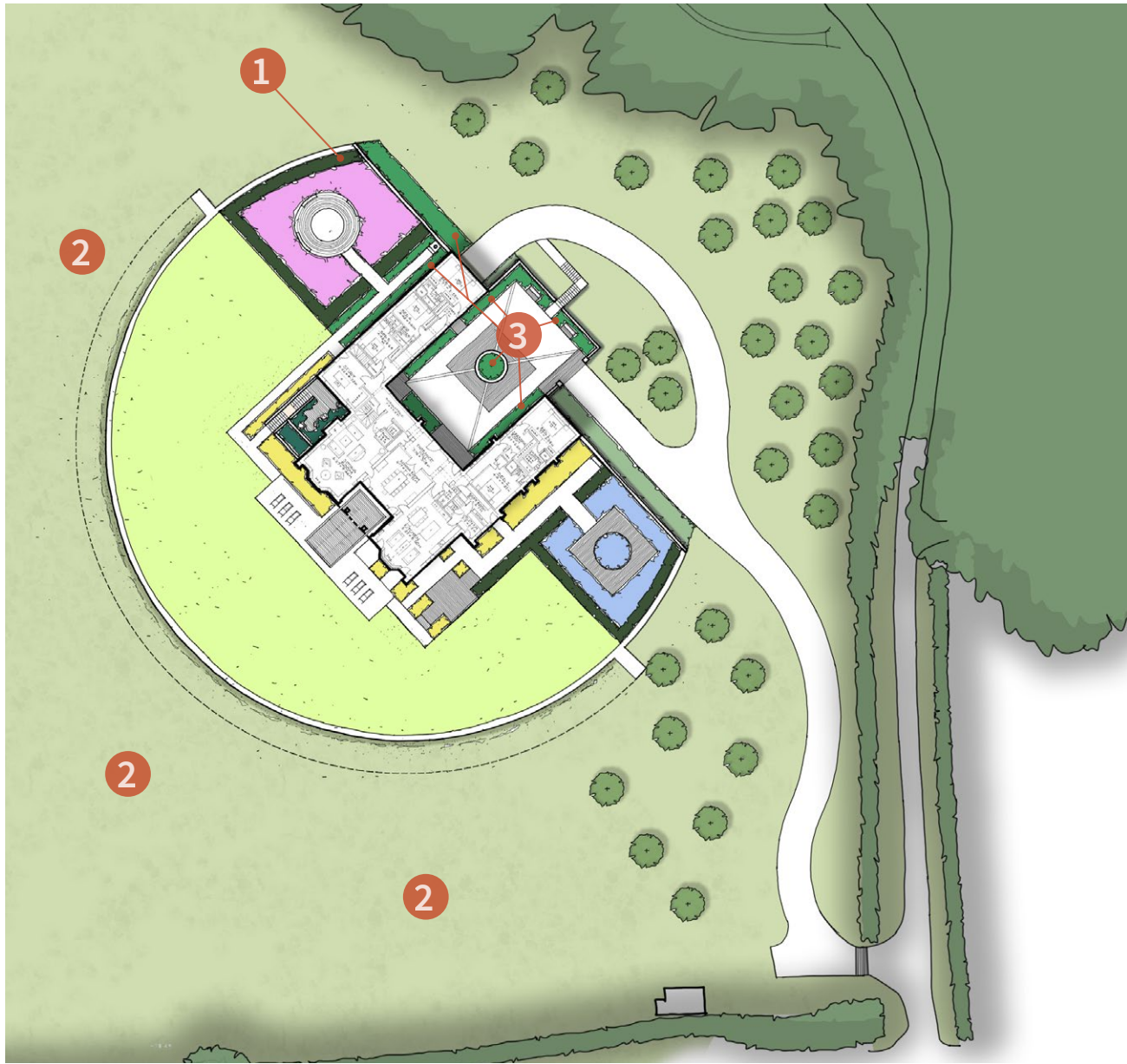
2. Managed Meadow

Existing meadow areas are retained and enhanced through a considered management regime, allowing them to develop as species-rich grassland over time. This approach strengthens the site’s rural character, supports biodiversity, and reinforces the visual connection to the wider landscape. Management will include seasonal cutting and removal of arisings to encourage floral diversity and long-term ecological value.



3. Semi shade woodland inspired

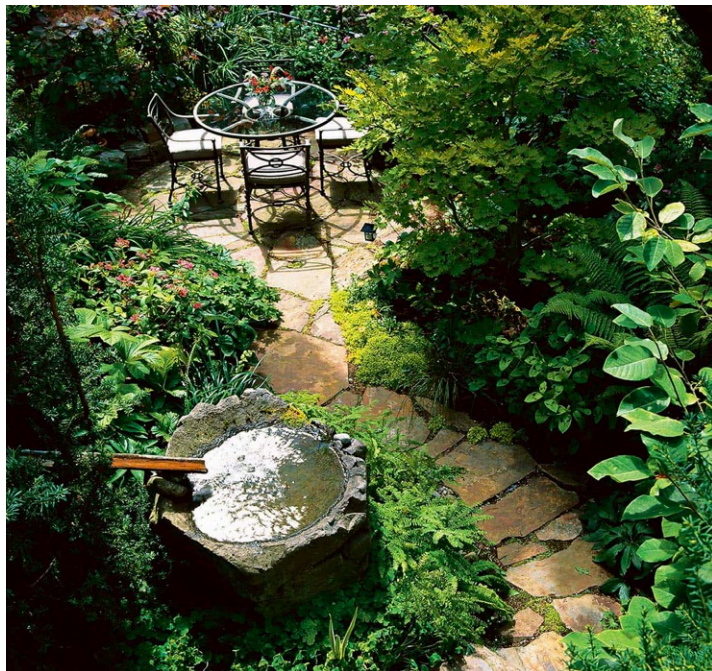
A semi-shaded planting palette is proposed, combining structured topiary elements such as *Ilex crenata* with looser, informal infill planting at low to medium height. This includes a mix of ornamental grasses, ferns (including Hart’s tongue fern) and other shade-tolerant species to create a soft, layered character. Wall shrubs are introduced along the flank wall extensions to enhance enclosure and provide vertical structure, helping to define the courtyard as a sheltered and intimate garden space. At the centre of the courtyard, a mature, characterful olive tree is proposed as a focal point, reinforcing the sense of arrival and providing year-round structure.



LANDSCAPE STRATEGY - SOFTWARES STRATEGY

4. Prairie-Inspired Planting

A prairie-inspired planting palette is introduced in the south-facing areas, providing a more designed and ornamental interpretation of the surrounding meadow landscape. A mix of ornamental grasses and flowering perennials, including umbellifers, creates a dynamic and visually rich planting composition with strong seasonal interest. This area is more curated and horticulturally driven than the managed meadow, offering a looser, flowing character while still responding to the wider landscape setting.



5. Sunken Garden

A woodland-inspired planting approach is proposed, with an informal, semi-wild arrangement creating a unique and distinctive character. A layered composition of ferns, shade-tolerant perennials, and low shrubs will establish a rich, immersive environment, responding to the more enclosed and sheltered conditions of the sunken space. Naturalistic planting and textured materials reinforce a sense of retreat, creating a calm, intimate garden with a strong connection to woodland settings.



6. Lawn

A simple, mown lawn sits above the ha-ha, forming a clean foreground to the wider landscape. It maintains open views and reinforces the concept of the borrowed landscape, providing a calm contrast to the surrounding naturalistic planting.

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY - SOFTWORKS STRATEGY

7. Reflection Garden

A simple palette of ornamental grasses and clipped topiary, enclosed by a backdrop of yew hedging and flank wall to north. This helps to frame a central reflecting pond, creating a calm and contemplative space with a focus on texture and movement.



8. Kitchen Garden/Potager

Low raised beds (max. 500 mm high) are proposed for vegetable growing, set within an enclosed space defined by hedging and a flank wall to the north.



9. Native tree planting

CORE STRUCTURE



Fagus sylvatica



Quercus robur

SECONDARY CANOPY



Acer campestre



Tilia cordata

UNDERSTOREY / EDGES



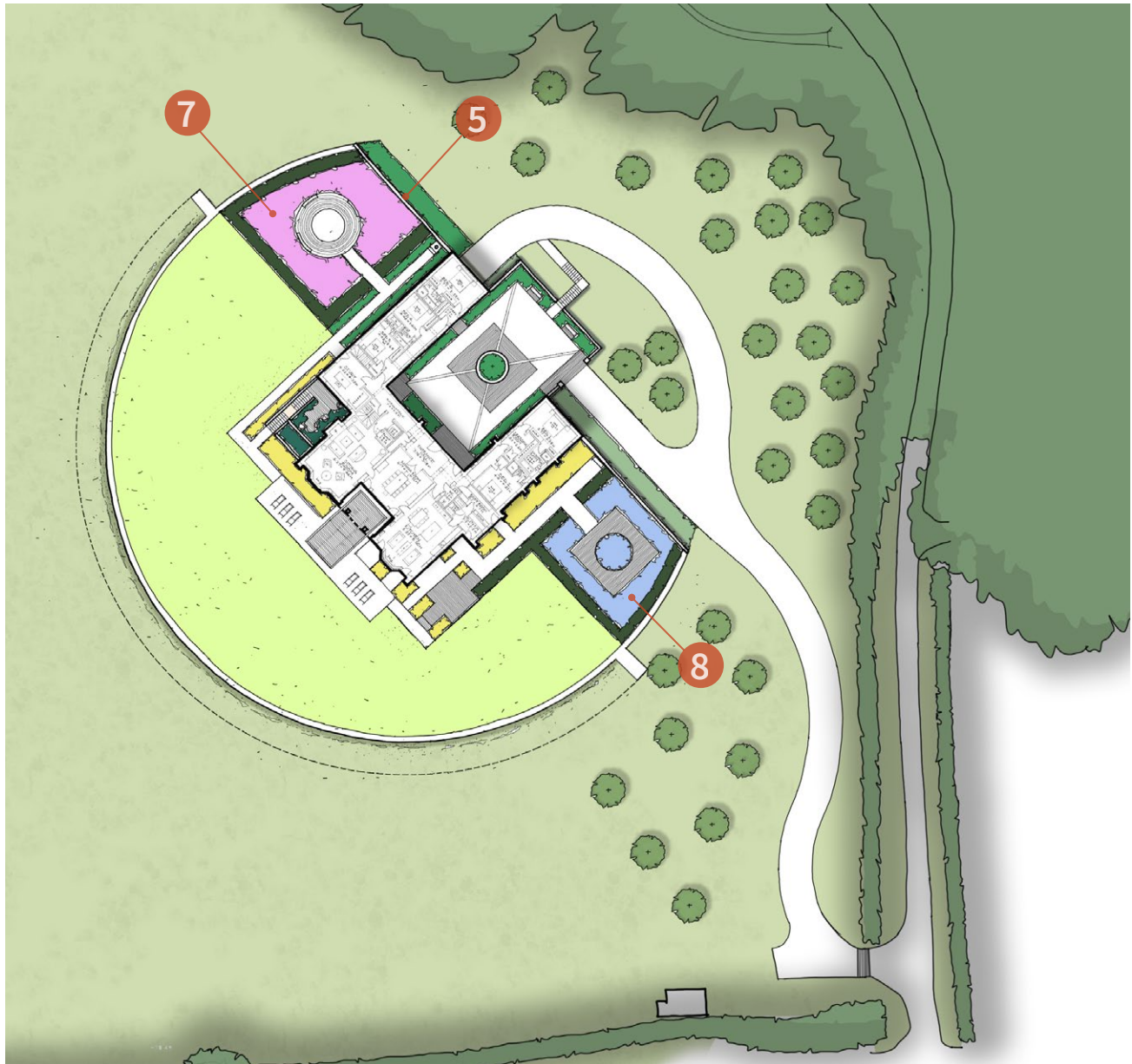
Betula pendula



Hawthorn



Hazel



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